

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 19, 1999

LB 637

the person that you contract with has to kind of buy in to this idea of increased productivity. And you're pretty generous with the person that you contract with. You pay them well for...for the farming. You allow them to keep some of the grain that they raise. You actually pay for most of the salary of two people that work for them. And, in return, you expect that you can dictate certain things like what kind of grain is produced and the whole idea of increased productivity. So one year you have a deal where you can trade with another farmer some of their grain and you want the kind that...that they grow and it's something that doesn't grow very well on your land, but they want a certain kind grain, and so you go to the...to the...to your contractor and you say, okay, this year I want to increase productivity by 8 percent and we'll split the difference in the increase. Sounds like a pretty good deal for them. And you'll pay for all the costs of...all their costs, but you want a certain kind of grain so that you can trade it with your neighbor. And since you've been paying for these two people for a number of years, you've decided that maybe that you need to modernize the way you do business. So you want the contractor to buy a tractor, and it's up to him whether or not he wants to keep those two people that are working for him, but you will no longer pay their salaries. You'll pay for part of the tractor, but you won't pay for their salaries. So you get about halfway into the growing season and you go out to visit this particular section of land and he's not growing the kind of grain that you had asked him to grow and he still has two people working for him and hasn't bought a tractor. Now, is it unreasonable for you to be just a little bit upset? To me, this is not you telling somebody what to do; it is you entering into a contract with somebody and them not living up to their side of the bargain. Well, that, in my estimation, is what we are doing with the federal government around child support collection. We have entered into an agreement with the federal government and are accepting money as a result of that agreement, and now we are talking about reneging on our side of the agreement. Because we have known for the past three years that we need to move to a centralized collection system and we have continued to accept the money knowing that we have to move to a centralized collection system. But we've decided that we don't like the rules and we're going to take the money anyway, just like the contractor in your farm, but we're not going to do what is